

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Louis Wolfram was recognized on Tuesday, June 22. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: LOUIS WOLFRAM
(By Alexander Hutchins)

Louis Wolfram, 60, Command Sergeant Major (retired) of the Iowa National Guard, has recently returned to State Active duty on Retiree Recall after retiring on his 60th birthday June ninth.

Wolfram was born in Sumner, Iowa to a family with nine children. His father had served in the Army Air Corps in World War II, but Wolfram was the only child out of his eight siblings that served in the military. Wolfram's father owned a grocery store in Sumner.

"He saw the writing on the wall that the small-town grocery was going to disappear and went into insurance," Wolfram said. The family moved to Jefferson, Iowa and then Boone. In 1968 Wolfram graduated Ryan High School.

One year later, in 1969, he was drafted.

On January 28 of 1970 Wolfram went on Active Duty and proceeded to receive training in accounting and stock control after a stint in Fort Des Moines, Fort Lewis and Fort Lee. After being trained to do both manual and mechanical accounting (using computers he described as half the size of a table) he received two weeks leave and then deployed to Vietnam.

Wolfram received his choice of specialty in the Army, but in exchange for his preference in duty he made a three-year commitment to the Army rather than the standard two. Wolfram served for 18 months in Vietnam at a large supply post in a rear area of Vietnam.

"I was a logistician," he said. "We pulled perimeter guard and did sweeps in the morning. I wasn't out beating the bush like the infantry guys were."

When he returned from two years in Vietnam, Wolfram was offered the option of serving a year at Fort Hood, a year in Germany or leaving the Army a year early. Wolfram took the option to leave the service, but says now he regrets not joining the National Guard immediately after leaving the Army.

"I was out for about five years," Wolfram said, and during this time he worked for John Deere.

In October of 1977 he joined the National Guard, where he is still serving after his retirement.

Wolfram said some of his fondest experiences are his travels throughout the U.S. and to Norway, Japan and Korea. He has been working full-time in the National Guard since 1986.

"The floods of '93 were a real, major event, just with all the manpower the guard put out there and the situations that we put our soldiers in that could have been catastrophic," Wolfram said.

He served as the Task Force Command Sergeant Major for the National Guard in Des Moines at the time of the flood and was impressed by how lucky the soldiers were in all the dangerous work they did fighting the flood.

Wolfram said he was especially proud of the work he did with the Iowa Military Academy and the opportunities he has received through the academy to train younger soldiers in leadership roles. Wolfram served two years as the Enlisted Senior Instructor for the Academy.

"That was a fruitful time in my career," he said.

Wolfram was also assigned for 14 years in the Boone Army National Guard base as a supply and food service administrator.

"You see a lot of happy faces when guys get good chow," he said with a laugh.

Before his retirement, Wolfram was serving as an enlisted advisor to the Judge Adjutant General of the Iowa Guard, advising the commander of the Iowa Guard on meeting the needs of the soldiers.

In 1990 Wolfram earned his degree in business and accounting, partly due to the credits he earned while serving in the Guard. He said he appreciated his education and all the opportunities he received to work with his leadership skills.

"One thing I regret is not joining the guard immediately after leaving active duty, and the other is that I didn't get to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan," he said. "Some people would say 'You're nuts for wanting to do that,' but it's part of what you swore in for and signed up for."

He said it is important to remember that many soldiers do not deploy, and he is always impressed working with combat veterans of previous eras.

For the past ten years Wolfram has worked on the military funerals honor team, work that has given him tremendous respect for the men and women who deploy overseas.

Wolfram was most impressed with how well prepared and supported the soldiers of today are, something he is acutely aware of after his time in Vietnam. He and his wife currently care for two of their grandchildren, and he said he will enjoy taking them out boating this summer, as well as finally being able to grow a beard.

I commend Louis Wolfram for his many years of loyalty and service to our great Nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today, I joined Congressional colleagues at a bipartisan ceremony in commemoration of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Nine years ago, our great country experienced the tragedy of a generation. Nearly 3,000 people were taken from this world too soon when violent extremist terrorists in Al Qaeda hijacked four planes and attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Among those who died that fateful day were hundreds of brave first responders who risked everything to save others.

I join my fellow Americans today in remembrance. As our battle with Al Qaeda continues, on this day, it is our responsibility as proud Americans to honor those who have perished by recommitting ourselves to the values of our great Republic.

On 9/11, we lost thousands of men and women across ethnicities, national origins, religious perspectives, and ideologies. Our country includes the rich tapestry of the world, and our success has always depended on our willingness to embrace everyone who is willing to work hard and play by the rules.

We cannot allow cruel acts of terror to divide us. We are the United States of America,

but Al Qaeda wants us to be the Divided States of America. There is no more appropriate day to demonstrate to the world that we refuse to back down from our shared civic values. Today, let's stand together, united as Americans, in somber mourning for those we've lost and in hopeful yearning for the bright future we can forge together.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
MAYOR JAMES W. DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of former City of Parma Mayor, James W. Day—beloved husband of the late Caroline C. Day; devoted father of James W. Day, Jr.; father-in-law of Linda; dear grandfather of Meghan, (Kevin), Amy (Devon), James and Christopher; great-grandfather of Masie; brother of Harvey; honorable WWII Veteran, and friend and mentor to many.

James W. Day served as Mayor of Parma from 1962 to 1967. Prior to that, he served for 8 years as councilman, and was also a member of the zoning board. A veteran, he served our Nation with courage and honor in the Army during World War II. He was a 50-year member of the American Legion and was a Charter Member of the Elks Lodge—both located in Parma. Mayor Day's incredible vision and dedication to the welfare of residents came at a challenging time, when the City's population had quickly jumped from 28,000 in the fifties to more than 80,000 by the mid-sixties. To accommodate this rapid growth—and continue to provide services while maintaining a vision for the future—Mayor Day implemented many projects that continue to make the City of Parma a thriving suburb.

When several acres of land became available for sale on York Road, Mayor Day led the effort to secure the land for what would soon become the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. He is also credited with spearheading the efforts that led to the development of the Parma Justice Center, Parma Community General Hospital and the Parmatown Mall—located on Day Drive, which is named after him. Ahead of his time, Mayor Day understood the significance of preserving green space. In the 1960's, he championed the effort to save the Ridgewood Golf Course from certain closing by pressing city leaders to have the city purchase the golf course. To this day, Ridgewood Golf Course continues to operate without any funds from the City. To acknowledge his lifelong efforts to keep Parma "green," the City of Parma officially designated a neighborhood city park as the "James W. Day Park."

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mayor James W. Day, who lived his life with great love for family, community, and country. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, friends and to the Parma community. Mayor Day touched many lives with his kind heart, joy for living, vision—and he will be remembered always.